IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for detecting disseminated tumor cells from a body fluid, in which non-tumor cells which express at least one of cytokeratins 1-20 are separated from tumor cells which express at least one of cytokeratin 1-20, in which

a) tumor cells are enriched by a cell separation medium which has a density in the range from 1.055 to 1.065 g/ml being overlaid with the body fluid and being centrifuges, thus separating cytokeratin-positive and cytokeratin-negative blood cells from one another, with the enriched tumor cells being present in the same fraction as the cytokeratin-negative blood cells; and

b) it is determined whether the enriched cells express an epithelial marker, which is cytokeratin, characterized in that there is reverse transcription of mRNA from the enriched cells, and a PCR is carried out with at least one cytokeratin-specific primer, where the cytokeratin is selected from the group consisting of cytokeratin 1 to **19 and** 20.

2. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in claim 20, characterized in that~~ **of claim 1, wherein** the centrifugation is carried out in a vessel which is divided by a porous barrier, a filter, a sieve, or a flap into an upper and a lower compartment, the cell separation medium being introduced into the lower compartment, and the body fluid being put in the upper compartment.

3. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ **of** claim ~~21~~ **2**, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the porous barrier, the filter, the sieve or the flap ~~have~~ **has** a thickness of 0.5-10 mm~~, preferably of 1-5 mm~~.

4. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~ **of** claim ~~21 or 22~~ **2**, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the porous barrier, the filter, the sieve or the flap ~~have~~ **has** a porous size of 20-100 μm~~, preferably 20-30 μm~~.

5. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in either of claims 22 or 23, characterized in that~~ **of claim 4, wherein** the porous barrier, the filter, the sieve or the flap ~~consist of~~ **is** a hydrophobic material or ~~are~~ **is** coated with a hydrophobic material.

6. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ **of claim 1, wherein** the cell separation medium comprises a dye which makes the cell separation medium distinguishable in color from the overlying body fluid, and thus simplifies location of the interphase.

7. (currently amended) The method ~~as claimed in any of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ **of claim 1, wherein** in step b) there is determination in single or combination analysis of whether the enriched cells express at least one epithelial marker~~, namely one of~~ **from** cytokeratins 1-20.

8. (currently amended) A kit comprising a cell separation medium which has a density in the range 1.055-1.065 g/ml, and means for detecting the expression of the epithelial marker cytokeratin, ~~characterized in that~~ **wherein** the means for detecting the expression of at least one of cytokeratins 1-20 is ~~selected from~~ **a** cytokeratin-specific primer[[s]].

9. (currently amended) The kit ~~as claimed in~~ **of** claim ~~27~~ **8**, ~~characterized in that~~ **further comprising** a washing buffer~~, optionally in concentrated form, is additionally present~~ for washing the enriched cells.

10. (currently amended) The kit ~~as claimed in either~~ of **either of** claim**s** ~~27~~ **8** ~~or 28~~, ~~characterized in that~~ **further comprising** at least one centrifugation vessel ~~is additionally present~~.

11. (new) The method of claim 3, wherein the porous barrier, the filter, the sieve or the flap has a thickness of 1-5 mm.

12. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein the porous barrier, the filter, the sieve or the flap has a porous size of 20-30 μm.

13. (new) The kit of claim 9, wherein the washing buffer is in concentrated form.